



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
ARSON AWARENESS WEEK
May 2-8, 2004

WHEREAS, arson is a serious crime that affects all people and can only be stopped when citizens realize the physical and emotional damage suffered by arson victims, and the toll arson takes on communities; and

WHEREAS, juvenile arson results in more than 40,000 fires nationwide each year, causing more than 300 deaths and 2,000 injuries, as well as \$300 million in property damage; and

WHEREAS, with youth-set fires, most of the lives lost are those of the very children setting the fires; and

WHEREAS, communities and neighborhoods are impacted by juvenile arson, resulting in the erosion of the community's tax base and economic structure, loss of employers and jobs, and increased expenses for property damage and additional firefighting resources; and

WHEREAS, all North Dakotans are encouraged to recognize the efforts and sacrifices of fire and law enforcement officials, both volunteer and career, who protect families and property and who tirelessly work to deter further incidents of juvenile arson; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 2-8, 2004, **ARSON AWARENESS WEEK** in the state of North Dakota.

/s/
John Hoeven
Governor

Attest:

/s/
Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State